

The State Chronicle

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Equal and Exact Justice to all Men,
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ligious or Political.—Thomas Jefferson.

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1890.

DEACON WHITE'S UNTIMELY SPEECH.

DEACON S. V. WHITE, of Brooklyn, N. Y., delivered an address yesterday at Livingston College, at Salisbury. The eloquent colored man, Pastor J. C. Price, whom we regard as a useful and excellent citizen, is President of that college. We wish we had room to print the speech in full, advanced sheets of which have been furnished us, not because we endorse it, but so our readers could see how Mr. WHITE took advantage of his position to deliver a "prerogative" to the people of the South. There are many things in the speech which we fully endorse, but it is calculated, if not intended, to stir up bad blood and to recall bitter recollections. Though abounding in professions to the contrary, the warp and woof of the address is the same that characterizes all Republican partisan utterances.

Mr. WHITE began his speech by relating much of the glorious early history of North Carolina. He paid a glowing tribute to the great men of the Revolutionary period and declared INDEED to be the equal of the more renowned Chief Justice MARSHALL. Then after promising to "no word of malice or ill will," or "to coddle the African race," nor "to enter upon any philippic against my own race," Mr. WHITE went on to speak of his abhorrence to slavery. We make the following extract from the address:

A distinguished and able North Carolina historian, Mr. JOHN W. MOORE, speaking of the contrast between Massachusetts bigotry, which drove out Baptists, and whipped Quakers, and hanged witches, and North Carolina tolerance in religious faith, justly says:

"No ROGER WILLIAMS has at any time been driven from our midst to seek in deeper wilds the privileges our bigotry was too narrow to afford him. No moral epidemic of frenzy has shed the blood of our people in the petty excesses of supernatural practices. We have had no SAM WILLIAMS BANKERS or CORROS MARINUS to scourge and imprison the unhappy Baptists and Quakers who failed of compliance with what bigotry was pleased to term orthodox."

All honor to North Carolina for this record of her tolerance and her justice; but the truth of history must witness that what the intolerance of religious bigotry could not do in North Carolina, the intolerance of slavery did and is doing to-day. I shall recur to the last clause of this proposition further on in my address.

In the year 1831 a panic swept over the entire South. The uprising and massacres in San Domingo, under the leadership of Toussaint L'Ouverture, had been heard of. The weird and blood-thirsty Nat. Turner was planning the massacre in Southampton county, in Virginia. Men and women everywhere throughout the South spoke with bated breath and blanched cheeks.

My father lived with his family in Chatham county. He was a man, against whom through his whole life the tongue of calumny was never wagged. His honesty and his honor were conceded alike by friend and foe. He acted in the fear of God, and all who knew him acknowledged it.

He was opposed to slavery on principle, and had been from early manhood, and had been accustomed to say so to white men in neighborly discussion.

In the frenzy which swept the country, slavery brooked no opposition, and admitted no discussion. Whoever was not for it was against it; and under direct threats of violence, on September 10, 1831, when I was less than six weeks old, he and my mother, with hearts swelling with a genuine Carolina love for home and kindred, with their three little children commenced their weary pilgrimage—out of North Carolina, over the Blue Ridge of Virginia, across the mountains of Tennessee, through the wilderness of Kentucky, beyond the State of Indiana, and into the State of Illinois. They were as much exiles from the intolerance of slavery as Roger Williams was from the intolerance of bigotry.

It is due to the fidelity of history to say that my father, true to the spirit of the men of that day and of this State, left with his rifle in hand and at "ready arms."

It is now nearly sixty years since his voice was heard for the last time in the State of his birth, pleading the cause of justice and humanity, and I account it a great privilege, having learned the lesson from his teaching, to stand in the State from which he was driven, and to plead the sacred cause of human rights.

In to-day's CHRONICLE appears an account of the stoning of a Baptist preacher, who went from North Carolina, in New Brunswick, N. J. This occurred a few days ago in an enlightened community, but we do not charge this as the usual procedure or state of society in New Jersey. Far from it. Neither is the ante-bellum case cited by Mr. WHITE illustrative of the spirit of to-day. It but recalls a condition of another age, and serves no good purpose.

Mr. WHITE goes on to say that from

their standpoint he believes the slave-owners were just and honorable men. Following up a history of slavery, he next criticizes the people of the South for their conduct after the war. Passing that period, he discusses the Carpet-bag government. Here, at least, we thought, the speaker would find some words of harsh criticism for the rascals who came down and used the deceived negroes and robbed the States. He does not defend them and admits their wrong-doing, but seeks to make their crime less heinous by giving a list of the absconding Democratic State Treasurers since the war and the amounts of their defalcation. He then proceeds to give a great deal of advice to the people of the South, based upon the following statement which he made:

Said an eminent Southern statesman, recently my colleague in Congress, to a party of Northern Representatives with whom he was exchanging good-natured raillery: "What do you all at the North let your political campaigns cost you so much for? In my district it only cost \$250 to run a campaign, and we spend that for powder and fire most of it off the night before election, to let the dummies know that there is to be a fair election the next day."

It is the "fad" with some fun-loving Congressmen from the South to tell such tales to men like DEACON WHITE, just for the fun of telling them. We have heard Southern jesters entertain credulous Northerners with manufactured yarns how negroes are killed in the South. But well-read men ought not to be deceived by such jokes. Mr. WHITE ought to have known that his friend was joking, (he says it was "good-natured raillery") and not have been guilty of repeating in all seriousness such a canard as this. The Deacon is altogether too credulous.

Then follows a deserved tribute of the faithfulness of the negro—another line of undeserved and harsh criticism of the Southern white men because of their action just after the war—a tribute to GEN. R. E. LEE. He follows this up with the regulation denunciation about the suppression of the negroes' vote, and says that "direful results may be precipitated if justice is persistently disregarded in our elections."

Concluding, Mr. WHITE devotes several minutes to a recital of the JOINER case. He draws a sacreligious parallel between Christ and JOINER, says that the same spirit that actuated the people in Randolph in dealing with JOINER actuated the Jews when they crucified Christ, and concluded with these words:

Oh, let me urge you, my kinsmen, to throw aside prejudice and to strive to lift up, not to trample down, these poor among you! Live to day so that the muse of history, when she recounts your achievements, shall never, in the light of advanced civilization, have reason to blush over the continuance of wrongs, against humanity, against your country, and against yourselves.

This is as nearly good, and when they can be made of six or seven columns space in such short space.

What good can such a speech do any man, white or black? PRESIDENT PRICE invited DEACON WHITE to address his students and give them bread. Instead, he gave them a stone. His speech has many excellencies and we read it with interest. We do not charge that his purpose was to traduce the South or to inflame bad passions. But such must be the necessary result of such a speech. He knows nothing of the problem that confronts us, and upon which he essays to speak. He can easily and flippantly plead for "justice" and for "a pure ballot." Let him tell us how he managed to buy enough votes in Brooklyn last year to elect HARRISON, and then he may preach to us about pure elections! As to slavery and the ills which followed in its wake, the people of the South know all about them. Of the mistakes and the wrongs of the past by the men in the North and South, let us trust we have long ago repented. Certainly no good can come from ermination and re-ermination. We have had enough of that.

The CHRONICLE regrets, that coming back home after an absence of three score years, Mr. WHITE should have no other message to his fellow-countrymen than a re-vamping of old troubles and a re-opening of old wounds. Slavery is dead. We thank God for it. Let the quarrels and injustice that grew out of it die with it. And let us all, forgetting the past and its mistakes, turn our faces to the morning, and seek to work out our material and political and religious salvation.

The North Carolina of to-day is not such a State as Mr. WHITE supposes. Both races dwell together in harmony and every man has his rights. The school fund is divided equally, and the colored children are making progress. We are glad to have Mr. WHITE's interest. When he gets the veil of Republican misrepresentation removed from his eyes, he will quit thrashing old straw and quit dwelling upon dead issues to young colored men who need wise counsel rather than political speeches.

Come to see us again DEACON WHITE. It will do you good to see us "face to face" and then you will have to revise your speech, at least, in some particulars.

THE MONUMENT to the memory of THOS. A. HENDRICKS will be unveiled in Indianapolis on the 1st of July. SENATOR TURNER will deliver the address, and distinguished men from all sections will join in doing honor to the great Commonwealth whose life fully illustrated Democratic principles.

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THE HOG VOTE SECURED.

(Asheville Citizen.)

The American hog got his protection inserted in the tariff bill by an amendment to the British clause moved by Mr. McKINLEY himself, and it is supposed that the hog vote is now secure.

HOMESPUN YARNS.

[Murphy Bulletin.]

The following story is told on Uncle Samuel Henry, and is too good to keep: One day recently he sauntered leisurely and listly over to the store that is run by a couple of Jews. During the conversation Uncle Sam gave vent to his feeling by remarking that he didn't like Jews. "Vy don't you like Shews?" queried one of them. "Because," said Uncle Sam slowly and deliberately, "they crucified Christ." "Vell," exclaimed our Israelitish friend, "didn't dey done it to save you?" This logical conclusion of the crucifixion was more than Uncle Sam could bear, and the laugh, for once, was turned on him.

A CANVASS ON SILVER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 27.—"When the silver bill is taken up and Bland offers his substitute for free and unlimited coinage, how will you vote?" This question has been put to Western Republicans quite generally during the past two days. The answers have been taken down. It is the intention to bring up the silver bill at an early date if the canvass shows that enough Republicans can be held together. But these in charge of silver legislation do not propose to be caught napping by the Democrats, and to have Mr. Bland's proposition adopted. The weakness in the Republican line in their opposition to free coinage of silver is with the Western men. One of these, a member from beyond the Mississippi, said in reply to the first question: "Gentlemen, if I am brought face to face with a free coinage proposition I will be compelled to vote for it, no matter if it does come from a Democratic source. This is true. I will have to decide then and there whether my Congressional career ends with this term. If I vote against free coinage I give up all thought of a re-nomination or re-election. You do not appreciate how my constituents feel, but I know their sentiments." Many other Republican members from the West have gone on record in a similar strain. They have told the party managers that they cannot vote against a free coinage proposition. If the Democrats were united there would be no doubt of the passage of the Bland amendment when the bill is taken up. But it has developed within a few days that the Western Republican vote for free coinage will be partially offset by the Atlantic seaboard Democratic vote against free coinage. Mr. Bland thinks free coinage will carry. The margin is so close that the Republican managers are in doubt. It is known, since the canvass, just how the Western Republican vote will vote against free coinage, but it is a "hog goods, at prime Eastern Democratic vote."

Two three silver legislation, a strictly party measure, but with poor prospect of succeeding.

Silver Before the Tariff.

(Special Dispatch to the Globe-Democrat.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 25.—A Republican Senator from the Northwest was asked this evening when the tariff bill would be passed. "Not until a silver bill has been sent to the President, and has been signed by him," was the reply. "We shall pass a tariff bill and shall send it to the President, but he will not get it until some silver legislation has been enacted. That is certain."

WAKE CO. EX. COMMITTEE.

Chairman Smith Calls a Meeting on the 7th of June.

The Democratic Executive Committee of Wake county, will meet in the court house in Raleigh on Saturday, June 7, 1890, at 12 o'clock m., to appoint a time and place of holding a county convention to select delegates to the State Judicial and Congressional Conventions.

ED. CHAMBERS SMITH,
Chairman.

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